



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 18 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 13 totaled an estimated 18.4 billion ton-miles, 0.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 41 weeks of 1979 was an estimated 707 billion ton-miles, 6.0 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 13 totaled 486,241 cars, 3.2 percent below 1978, and virtually the same as the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 7.3 percent in the East, 2.5 percent in the South, and 0.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1978, 18 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 115,641, a high for this year, and loadings of grain were up 5,921 cars, or 21.2 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended October 6 totaled 38,558 cars, down 5.5 percent from the corresponding week of 1978, and 67,707 trailers and/or containers, 3.6 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 40 weeks of the year was 1,436,040, 2.2 percent higher than last year, and 2,534,062 trailers and/or containers, up 4.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/13.¹

	Loadings in Week ended October 13, 1979		Change from Corresponding Week 1978		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	33,823	I	5,921	21.2	I	2,634 8.4
Other farm products	5,311	D	2,173	29.0	I	625 13.3
Metallic ores	34,701	D	6,416	15.6	D	3,103 8.2
Coal	115,641	I	10,570	10.1	I	2,296 2.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	18,542	D	2,720	12.8	I	1,252 7.2
Nonmetallic minerals	16,120	D	842	5.0	I	1,181 7.9
Grain mill products	18,066	D	1,758	8.9	I	154 0.9
Food and kindred products	18,930	D	1,837	8.8	I	222 1.2
Primary forest products	20,970	D	729	3.4	I	241 1.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,807	D	591	4.8	I	317 2.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,155	I	63	0.3	D	273 1.3
Chemicals and allied products	27,387	D	1,603	5.5	D	1,144 4.0
Petroleum products	6,148	D	835	12.0	D	219 3.4
Stone, clay and glass products	19,590	D	1,653	7.8	D	103 0.5
Coke	6,621	D	619	8.5	I	67 1.0
Metals and products	17,429	D	578	3.2	D	1,283 6.9
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,602	D	5,340	19.8	I	247 1.2
Waste and scrap materials	13,797	D	391	2.8	I	269 2.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,848	D	291	2.2	D	892 6.5
All other carloads	45,324	D	4,251	8.6	D	2,610 5.4
LCL traffic	429	D	107	20.0	I	25 6.2
Total Cars Loaded	486,241	D	16,180	3.2	D	97 0.0
Corresponding week of 1978	502,421					

	1979	1978	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (40 weeks)	18,898,880	18,191,504	I 3.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
40 weeks cumulative	688.8	648.6	I 6.2
Week ended October 13	18.4	18.4	D 0.2
41 weeks cumulative	707.2	667.0	I 6.0

¹ The figures above include 12 railroads no longer considered Class I roads when the qualifying requirement for Class I companies was raised by the ICC from \$10 million to \$50 million in annual operating revenues as of January 1, 1978.